

E. SCOTT ARRINGTON.

MAY 17, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRADLEY, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3631.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred bill (S. 3631) for the relief of E. Scott Arrington, on account of certain injuries claimed to have been sustained by him, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do not pass.

In support of this recommendation, the committee makes the following statement of facts:

It is claimed that Arrington was injured by reason of defects in an elevator in the Post-Office building, at Washington, on October 12, 1905. Affidavits of physicians certified February 23, 1906, describe the injuries received by Arrington. No proof has been submitted since that date to show his condition, although his attorney was notified that proof as to the present condition of the claimant was not in the papers and was asked to submit such proof if he so desired. Although ample time was given to the attorney, he failed to submit such proof. An investigation of the facts by one of the officers of the Government, made at the instance of the committee, shows that on the 21st day of April, 1910, he visited the claimant and found him at work on the farm, one-fourth of a mile from his dwelling, setting fence posts and building a wire fence. The claimant showed no signs of lameness or injury. On interrogation by the officer, he made the statement that at the time he was injured, he was employed by the foreman of laborers, Mr. Feast, who was not operating for the Government, to assist in moving the Money Order Division from the Union Building, G street, between Sixth and Seventh streets, NW., to the Post-Office building, Twelfth and Pennsylvania avenue, and he was detailed on the back freight elevator to run truck loads up and down. That whilst thus employed, some one untied the strings of the back door of the elevator and left it open, and in running down the door struck the beam of the elevator, threw off the cable, and the elevator dropped one floor, the truck in the elevator striking his foot. That he was sent to the Emergency Hospital where it was bandaged and he

remained that day and went to his boarding house. That he was never treated by a physician, but merely rubbed liniment and anti-phlogistine on it, and walked on a crutch for a while. That after this, he ran a stationary engine at the Fredonia Hotel, H street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, NW., in Washington.

The officer reports that from his observation the claimant walks without any difficulty and that his health is good. Arrington did not claim that the strings referred to were loosened by any employee of the Government.

Under these circumstances, the bill mentioned appropriated to him the sum of \$5,000.

The report of Fred N. Webber is attached hereto as part of this report.

E. Scott Arrington does not live in Washington, D. C., but lives with a brother, David Arrington, on a farm one-half mile west of Manassas, Va.

Dr. J. T. Kemp says he examined him some months after his injury and found he was disabled partly; has never seen him since; does not know where he lives now.

Laudon Feast, United States Treasury Department, says he was in charge at time of injury and believes he lives at Manassas, Va.

Mr. Howard P. Dodge, postmaster, Manassas, Va., says Arrington is known to him and has talked of his injury to him. Says he limps at times, and suffers with rheumatism in the foot at times; says he works around his brother's farm "and does not use crutches."

J. W. Wilcoxson, town sergeant, Manassas, Va., says he knows Arrington; "he limps at times, but does not use crutches."

I went to Arrington farm, found the two brothers one-fourth mile from home in a field setting fence posts, "tamping posts," and setting wire fence in a pasture. Watched claimant (the eldest), showed no signs of lameness, walked without limping; went to him and discussed his case with him.

He says frankly he was employed under foreman of laborers, Mr. Feast (no appointment from Government) to assist in moving money-order division from Union Building, G street between Sixth and Seventh streets NW., to Post-Office Department building, Twelfth street and Pennsylvania avenue NW., and was detailed on the back freight elevator to run truck loads up and down; was on elevator at the date—and about 3 to 4 p. m. of October 12, 1905, in Post-Office building, when some one untied strings of the back door to the elevator and left it open. And in running down the door struck the beam of the elevator, threw off the cable, and the elevator dropped one floor, from the sixth to the fifth floor. The truck in the elevator struck his (Arrington's) foot. He was sent to Emergency Hospital, where it was bandaged and he remained that day and went to his boarding house, No. 1920 Pennsylvania avenue NW., kept by Mrs. Fairfax, not now in Washington, residence unknown.

Never had a physician, rubbed liniment and put Antiphlogistin on it, and walked on a crutch.

Was paid for his time (a few days) up to day of accident, and never paid or employed in the same place.

Worked afterwards running a stationary engine in Fredonia Hotel, H street between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets NW., this city.

Had Drs. Kemp and Bogan examine him and give him a certificate; their evidence on file in case he says.

Went to board on C street, No. 50 NW., with a Mrs. Taylor, then came to Manassas, Va., to his brother's and works around his brother's place.

Says he has no lawyer; was told he did not need one.

Is 70 years old, he says.

Is not now on crutches or a cane, and from my observation walks as well as any person could.

The call for copy of the records of Emergency Hospital, Washington, D. C., October 12 and 13, 1905, will show exact nature of injury, whether serious in character.

Could not have been very serious with no attending physician after the accident.

Is in apparent best of health and was working with no evidence of limp or lameness while with me for thirty minutes between 10 and 11 a. m. to-day in a wet field, rough, muddy ground, and a rainy day.

A call for copy of his services in the Treasury Department will undoubtedly show he was not on United States Government rolls.

He says he never was appointed; was just given work from time to time on this moving of post-office stuff from one building to another.

From his statement it looks as if it was a contract with some moving company.

He undoubtedly was injured, but it is not a case of permanent injury, for he, 70 years old, was stamping dirt around posts in the field as I watched him, and it did not seem to annoy his limb in any way as far as personal observation goes.

Respectfully submitted.

FRED N. WEBBER, Sr.,
Special Officer, United States Capitol.

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